

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 /083 W

----- 086010

R 031119Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9660

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0819

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UG, SU

SUBJECT: AMIN VISIT TO KHARTOUM: APRIL FOOL?

REF: KHARTOUM 0788

1. PRESIDENT IDI AMIN MADE OVERNIGHT SURPRISE VISIT TO KHARTOUM MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, APPARENTLY WITH NO MORE ADVANCE NOTICE THAN HAD BEEN GIVEN WHEN HE CANCELLED EARLIER PLANS TO ATTEND MARCH 3 UNITY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN WAU. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MET AMIN AT AIRPORT, SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL CLAIMED IGNORANCE OF VISIT EVEN AFTER ARRIVAL.

2. TWO SIDES MANAGED PRODUCE FAIRLY ANODYNE JOINT STATEMENT FOR PRESIDENTS' SIGNATURES, EXPRESSING: DESIRE FOR INCREASED COOPERATION (IRRIGATION, AGRICULTURE, AND EDUCATION); SUPPORT FOR AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY; BACKING OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; AND "SATISFACTION WITH RECENT RECOGNITION BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF LEGITIMACY OF JUST STRUGGLE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE...THE TWO PRESIDENTS

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CONDEMNED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE IN REFUSING TO WITHDRAW

FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES..." FINALLY, TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENT UGANDAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN KHARTOUM.

3. AMIN PROBABLY IDENTIFIED PRINCIPAL REASON FOR DROPPING IN WHEN HE TOLD LOCAL PRESS THAT ARABS MUST TAKE REAL INTEREST IN AFRICA AND THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION MUST BE STRENGTHENED. (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE AMIN'S WAY OF ADMONISHING NIMEIRI, THE ARAB-AFRICAN INTERLOCUTOR, FOR NOT HAVING LURED ENOUGH ARAB MONEY INTO BLACK AFRICA.) WITH RESPECT TO MIDDLE EAST, AMIN WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY MILD, CLAIMING THAT "DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON WAR FRONTS WAS A MILITARY AND NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE AND MUST BE TACKLED BY A MILITARY AND NOT A POLITICAL LEADER LIKE KISSINGER" (AMIN REFRAINED FROM VOLUNTEERING). FINALLY AMIN, REMINDED PRESS THAT KAMPALA WILL HOST JULY AFRICAN SUMMIT.

4. AMIN ACCOMPANIED BY (AS IDENTIFIED IN ARAB PRESS) COLONEL SIPOTI, REPRESENTATIVE OF HIGH DEFENSE COUNCIL; AMBASSADOR KENITI, UGANDAN PERMREP TO UN; MAJOR FAROUK, ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT; AND KHALID AL-SHEIK, PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN KAMPALA.

5. FONOFF OFFICIALS TELL US THAT PLO REP DOUBLES AS POLITICAL ADVISOR TO AMIN AND PROBABLY APPEARED HERE IN THAT CAPACITY. OTHERWISE, OFFICIALS (INCLUDING SUDANESE AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA) FIND VISIT BEWILDERING BUT PAR FOR AMIN AND PROFESS TO ASCRIBE LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO IT. WE INCLINED AGREE ON BOTH COUNTS.
BREWER

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